H.B.M.'s CONSULATE GENERAL,

CAXTON.

Sir,

Having heard yesterday from several sources that the Chinese Authorities contemplated opening fire on the City of Canton, particularly the suburb of Saikuan, the Senior Consul, vested day, made a verbal protest to the Civil Governor, as under : —

(1) "That in the event of foreign persons or property being injured they would hold the Government responsible.

(2) That they protested against the barbarity of firing on a defenceless City.

(3) That in the event of injury to foreign persons or property they would take whatever measures they deemed desirable. ' '

I am now in receipt of a message from the Senior British Naval Officer stating that he has received orders from the Commodore in Hongkong that, in the event of the Chinese Authorities firing upon the City immediate action is to be taken against them by all British Naval Forces available.

I am, etc.,

BERTRAM

H.B.M. COKSUI,

Dr. Sun was furious at the suggestion that "my Government'* was not free to bombard Canton at his own sweet will, regardless of foreign — not to mention Chinese — lives and property. He issued a Manifesto — in Eugene Chen's best style — denouncing British Imperialism, and claiming that the merchants were in open rebellion against him and he was entitled to use force to suppress them. To Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, who at that time was Prime Minister, he cabled : —

"The Canton Compradore of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation has been organizing a body of so-called Chinese Fascist!, whose aim has now been revealed to be the overthrow of my Government. This was to be carried out when the rebels could be effectively armed with arms and ammunition imported from Europe on the steamer *Hav.*

The *Hav* arrived in Canton on August 10, and was immediately seized by mv Government. Since then a state of rebellion has existed in Canton in the guise of a strike engineered by